



# 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION

## OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM NEWSLETTER



January 2004

Dear All American Families,

As we enter the dawn of this joyous New Year, we can look forward to a bright future filled with opportunity and safety not only for ourselves, but for our children and our children's children. We have been blessed with a tremendous outpouring of support from our fellow countrymen for our efforts here in Iraq. We have made a real difference in the quality of life for the Iraqi people. We have contributed directly to the safety and security of our country and the world.

There is much to look forward to in the coming year and we will continue to be at the forefront of the change and prosperity that lies ahead. We can also look forward to a bright future for the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. We have provided the average Iraqi and Afghan something that most had never experienced - - freedom. What a wonderful gift to share during this season of giving. I am filled with optimism that this coming year will bring us all joy and happiness.

Our great Division has experienced an extraordinary and historic year - - the accomplishments of both the paratroopers of the All American Division and you the families and loved ones that support us so well will be recorded in the annals of our Division. Our achievements, both large and small, are remarkable and have been duly noted by our Nations leaders and by our fellow countrymen, as we fight our Nation's Global War on Terror.

This year we saw the conclusion of Task Force Panther and Task Force Devils deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Both the Devils and Panthers, collectively comprising over 6,000 paratroopers,

stood on our Nation's front lines with valor and dignity. Their efforts resulted in the stabilization of large regions of Afghanistan and have provided an opportunity for freedom to flourish in one of the worlds most oppressed regions.

Task Force Falcon and our Division Headquarters deployed early this year to Kuwait and were instrumental in the successful execution of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Fighting through the most contentious regions of Iraq the Falcons and Division Headquarters demonstrated the skill and toughness under fire that have been a hallmark of this great Division. The successful liberation of Iraq was due in no small part to paratroopers of the All American



Division.

While Task Force Falcon stayed on and continued to take the fight to former regime elements bent on impeding the transformation to a free and democratic Iraq, the Division Headquarters returned to Fort Bragg...for a short while. When notified to deploy last July, the Division Headquarters, Task Force Panther, and the Division's combat support and service support returned to Iraq, occupied the expansive Al Anbar region, and have fought as Task Force All American. Our efforts, underway as I write this, have had an incredibly positive impact on the lives and wellbeing of the Iraqi people.

During this past year of numerous and sustained deployments, the All Americans also maintained the Division Ready Brigade. The Division's capability to project combat power on extremely short notice into any of the world's hot spots continued throughout the entire year. Troopers recently returned and those pending deployment shared in the responsibility of ensuring our Nation always had a force capable of answering any call.

Here in Iraq, our efforts to improve the lives of the average Iraqi citizen continues and focuses on providing security and improving basic health, education, and sanitation services for the towns within our area of operation. It is hard to fully describe the state of disrepair that many of these basic services have fallen into, due either to neglect or because the services never existed in the first place. Things you and I take for granted, important basic services critical to healthy living, are our priority. We have made major strides in improving the primary health care clinics in our area which will have an immediate and direct impact on the wellbeing of Iraqi citizens. We have renovated or reopened numerous schools, providing both a positive learning environment and the basic supplies necessary for a positive educational experience. One example of a school reopening was a primary school for boys in a town that had been without one for over thirteen years. We facilitated the repair of two water treatment plants that provide clean water to over 150,000 Iraqis - - a service they were without for fifteen years. These efforts and many more not only make life better for the average Iraqi, but most provide productive employment opportunities for Iraqi citizens.

While accomplishing these many tasks, we have had the opportunity to host numerous VIPs here in Iraq - - Members of US House of Representatives, Senior Army civilian and military leaders, and many other distinguished visitors. Every visitor has left us with two observations, first, that Task Force All American is performing superbly, and secondly, the American people, both our governmental leaders and the average citizen, truly appreciate that we have done and continue to do, both here and at Fort Bragg.

The All American Division continues to make significant

progress our Nation's Global War on Terror. I am very proud of the effort and dedication of every member of the All American team whether in Iraq, Afghanistan, or both places. During this extraordinary period in our Division's history we are blessed to be amongst so many that understand the challenges we face.

I will continue to pass accurate information on the status of our deployment to our families quickly and openly. My two goals are that families will know and understand the details of their loved ones deployment status and that all available support systems at Fort Bragg operate with one purpose - - to ensure that families have what they need during these deployments. I will reiterate to you that the best and most accurate source of information on these deployments continues to be your unit's family readiness

group and rear detachment chain of command. I will continue to ensure that top quality mature leaders with a comprehensive understanding of Fort Bragg's systems are leading our rear detachments. Fort Bragg is superbly suited to support families of deployed paratroopers and your family readiness group leaders and rear

detachment commanders know how to make Fort Bragg's systems work for you.

Let me close this month's edition of the newsletter with sincere thanks for all that you have done and continue to do during this deployment. Task Force All American has brought about sweeping change for the Iraqis in the Al Anbar province - - change that will bring lasting peace to this region and safety and security to America. What you do on the home front makes a substantial difference to us here in Iraq and your efforts are appreciated.

Happy holidays and a blessed New Year...and May God bless each of you.

**TROOPERS FIRST, MISSION ALWAYS!**

**Charles H. Swannack, Jr.**  
**Commanding General, 82D Airborne Division**







**CSM Wolf Amacker**  
**Command Sergeant Major**  
**82D Airborne Division**

Dear Families and Friends of the All American Division,

Airborne! The great troopers in Task Force All American are setting a new standard for excellence here in Iraq, both in their pursuit of the enemy and in their efforts to make Iraq a better place - I could not be more proud to be a paratrooper. Whether conducting combat operations or executing humanitarian tasks, your loved ones conduct themselves with distinction. Their efforts in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom directly impact the safety of our Nation and speak volumes of the support you give us.

We have just concluded our celebration of Christmas and the dawning of a new year. Each of us would have given anything to be back at home with those we love during this important time of year, but our Nation called and needs us to defend the things we hold dear. We had an excellent Christmas and New Years celebration. Christmas dinner was truly exceptional and our food service providers went out of their way to make the best meal possible. While all of us would have much rather been at home celebrating the holidays in our own personal ways, we couldn't have asked for a better celebration here in Iraq. As with our celebration of Thanksgiving, many of our key junior leaders worked tirelessly to ensure that everything went right during Christmas. On every base camp, there is a core of leaders who work behind the scenes to ensure that our paratroopers have the opportunity to celebrate and blow off steam watching key college and professional football games or have a New Years party. I am very proud of their effort and dedication to their fellow paratroopers. Like I've told you before, your loved ones are in good hands and we're working hard to take care of them.

In and around our celebrations, we continued to take the fight to the enemy and we scored some very significant successes. Our recent capture of some senior level members of the former regime will have an immediate and positive impact on our safety and the future of Iraq. Our

troopers continue to capture vast quantities of enemy weapons, ammunition, bomb making materiel, and devices to make mines and explosives. The fight continues and we are winning. Everyday our paratroopers execute their combat mission and they take their responsibilities seriously. I will continue to emphasize force protection and safety with our leaders and I will constantly push our leaders to identify new methods and techniques to accomplish our mission safely.

We endeavor every day to provide a better quality of living for the paratroopers of Task Force All American. We continue to improve basic life support functions as we are now into the colder winter season. Additionally, we have made great strides in improving and expanding morale activities on each of our base camps. We now have internet cafes on most of our camps which allows a substantial number of paratroopers to access the internet and email. We will continue the upgrades and improvements until we redeploy and leave our mark of excellence on each of our base camps.



We hosted numerous senior Army civilian and military leaders, Members of our House of Representatives, and other VIPs over the holiday season. All were duly impressed with the quality and professionalism of our paratroopers and they conveyed their gratitude for our service and appreciation of the sacrifices that you are making on the home front. We are clearly setting a highly visible standard of excellence that is noted by all who come

in contact with paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Your efforts and sacrifices at home are truly appreciated by all of us over here. You have taken on a heavy burden for your family, paratrooper, and your Nation. Our sacrifices today will ensure a safer tomorrow for our families and friends. I am proud to be an All American and to serve with the finest soldiers in the Army!

ATW!

CSM Wolf Amacker



**505th PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT**

# Task Force Panther



**Colonel Jefforey Smith**  
**Commanding Officer, 505th PIR**

Greetings from TF Panther in Iraq. We would like to extend our best wishes for a happy and safe New



Year. We trust that everyone had a joyous holiday season. Our families and friends were in our prayers and our thoughts during this holiday season. The holiday season came a little early here in Iraq with the capture of High Value Target number one, Saddam Hussein. His capture began a period of stability in our zone that lasted for nearly two weeks. We hope that his capture marks a turning

point for the country of Iraq and its new government.

TF Panther hosted the Chief of Staff of the Army General Schoomaker and the CJTF-7 Commander LTG Sanchez on Christmas Eve. Both of their visits focused on spending time with soldiers and taking the opportunity to extend holiday greetings to soldiers out in the field. Our Christmas dinner was another first class production thanks to TF Panther Food Service personnel and the Kellogg, Brown, and Root employees.

We are continuing to improve the FOBs throughout our AO. Additional physical fitness equipment arrived during the past week. This equipment provides a much needed outlet for our troopers. All of our FOBs have had Internet cafes installed. They should be fully operational in early January. The AAFES facility at FOB St Mere now has a barber shop and sewing/

alterations shop.







The members of the brigade combat team continue to see improvements in our zone. We are continuing to focus on Civil Military Operations to improve the quality of life for the local Iraqis as we enter into the winter months. We need to improve on the availability of electricity and gas so that the citizens can have better living conditions. Our engagement with locals and their leaders and our continued operations to remove threatening elements should continue to improve stability in our Area of Operations. We intend to build on our successes as we move towards mission accomplishment - and our return to you, our

friends and families, who are constantly in our thoughts.

All The Way!

COL Smith  
Panther 6  
and  
CSM Burgos  
Panther 9





# 325th AIRBORNE INFANTRY REGIMENT

## Task Force Falcon



### Colonel Kurt Fuller

#### Commanding Officer, 325th AIR

Greetings from southern Baghdad! The Falcons continue to focus our efforts on defeating the remnants of the enemy resistance in the Al Rahsid district as we assist the Iraqi people in forming democratic institutions and in repairing their neglected infrastructure. We spent the month of December engaged in numerous operations that directly targeted resistance fighters and also struck a blow against organized crime. Long fuel lines had become a major problem that was obviously beyond the capabilities of Iraqi law enforcement officials, so we took on the challenge of cleaning up corruption and ensuring the fuel distribution system functioned properly. We also conducted major offensive operations including dozens of raids and firing hundreds of mortar and artillery rounds against enemy positions. These resulted in the capture of 136 enemy, thousands of rounds of ammunition, several dozen weapons, over 80 pounds of plastic explosives, and \$20 million Iraqi Dinar. Your troopers executed these missions with precision and skill and succeeded in keeping enemy fighters and criminals on the run. As a result, the month saw a



huge reduction in enemy activity. Those fighters not already captured or killed are wondering whether they are next on our target list and what their comrades are telling us during interrogations. The capture of Saddam Hussein was obviously the highlight of the month and the Iraqi people breathed a collective sigh of relief and congratulated all coalition soldiers mightily. This was truly a combined effort with every trooper and freedom-loving citizen participating in the hunt for the former dictator. Every shred of information collected over many months was combined to complete the puzzle and lead to Saddam's hiding place.



Our troopers celebrated the holidays as best as possible in the midst of near-continuous offensive operations. The enemy did everything he could to organize attacks against us and he failed miserably. This past month, we finished work on the Falcon chapel and had a beautiful candlelight Christmas serv-





ice in it. The troopers were entertained on Camp Falcon by the All American Band, a comedy show, and the 1st Armored Division Band. These events were all well received by over 1800 of our troopers. Over 600 soldiers were on hand to meet Sergeant Major of Army Tilley during his recent visit and we're all looking forward to seeing and hearing to the All American Chorus around mid-January.

We are extremely busy preparing for our redeployment and relief in place with members of 1st Armored Division's DIVARTY. We recently learned that the

White Devils will assume the White Falcon zones and we will do everything we can to ensure a smooth and thorough transition with our brothers in the Iron Division and our fellow paratroopers. We are all eager to finally get back home, but none of us will rest until we're on that airplane. We owe it to those who follow us to set the conditions for their success in every way possible - and we will.

As we finish our combat tour, I want each of you back home to know how much we all appreciate the sacrifices you have all made in support of the Falcons

and our mission here. I know this has been a very difficult time for you all and I also know that we could have never accomplished what we did without your steadfast support and encouragement. There is no way our Army and our nation can ever repay you for what you have endured and we will be forever thankful that there are dedicated people like you behind us. I also want to tell you how proud I am of every trooper and leader in this Task Force. In the histo-





ry of the profession of arms, there has never been a better prepared or better led unit and the accomplish-

ments of these warriors are truly awesome. America could not find better ambassadors anywhere. These men and women have; through their resolve, good will, honor and professionalism, convinced the Iraqi people that we truly are here for the noble cause of liberating them from a ruthless dictator and helping them build a new and democratic nation where freedom is not just a far-off dream. Through nearly a year of continuous hardship and danger, your loved ones have performed every mission to the highest standard and have constantly displayed extreme courage, unwavering dedication to duty, and compassion for the oppressed people of Iraq. They are a shining example of the best our great country has to offer and they are my personal heroes.

May God keep us all under His divine protection and grant us a safe and speedy return!

Happy New Year!

Falcon 6





# 319th AIRBORNE FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT

## Loyalty



### Colonel Scott Thein Commanding Officer, 319th AFAR

SEASON'S GREETINGS to the family and friends of the DIVARTY...



We want to wish you all the best for the holidays and the New Year! We hope that all of you have enjoyed the blessings of the season.

We also want to send our sincerest condolences to the family of SPC Marshall Edgerton. SPC Edgerton was killed in the line of duty during an attack on Champion Main. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and children. Although he was not assigned to DIVARTY, he was a paratrooper, and one of us. He has paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country and our way of life. May he rest in peace.

The troopers of DIVARTY continue to accomplish their mis-

sions with the utmost of professionalism and dedication.

The mission to consolidate enemy ammunition continues with the troopers of DIVARTY exceeding all expectations in accounting for and destroying dangerous explosives. For the past month the DIVARTY has supported the deployment of two command and control cells to oversee the operations at ammunition cache sites.

In addition to the ammunition mission, the governant support team has participated in regular meetings with the local governor and the governing council. They have also worked closely with the leaders in this region to provide employment opportunities for the local citizens.

Last but far from least the Base Operations mission has continued to improve the quality of life for all the troopers on Champion Main. From the Thanksgiving Day celebration that we reported in last month's newsletter to the Christmas dinner, and holiday observances the troopers of DIVARTY have been the ones behind the scenes working tirelessly to ensure that these events are successful. This month we are going to highlight several of the events that the troopers of DIVARTY have coordinated for the troopers of Champion Main.

At the beginning of December the DIVARTY held its traditional St. Barbara's Day Observance in the Mayor's Conference Room. We hosted our artillery brothers from

DIVARTY troopers attend the Champion Main tree lighting ceremony.





## The 82d Band plays for the troopers of Champion Main.



1-5 FA Battalion. They live across the Euphrates from Champion Main at FOB Junction City. The event was a huge success and included a catered dinner, a motivational video, comments from CSM Amacker, and an awards ceremony.

The same weekend the DIVARTY hosted a "tail-gate" party for the Army / Navy football game. Although Army lost this year, the tail-gate party was a great diversion for the troopers here at Champion Main.

Along with the tail-gate party the base hosted the troopers from the Division Band, who played an outstanding set for

the assembled troopers. Again, this was a welcome diversion from the rigors of the deployment.

On Christmas the base played host to a USO tour, country western recording stars Darryl Worley, Craig Morgan and Jolie Edwards. They dined with us, and took the time to visit all the units here on Champion Main for pictures and autographs.

Additionally, the DIVARTY sponsored a numerous tournaments for the soldiers on Champion Main during the weeks proceeding Christmas and New Years.

Finally, the month culminated in an outstanding Christmas dinner that rivaled the Thanksgiving Dinner we hosted a month before. The Christmas dinner was a huge hit with the troopers of Champion Main, and helped to ease the pain of our separation from family and friends on this special day.

We wish you all the best in the New Year, and look forward to getting home to Fort Bragg soon.  
**ALL THE WAY!**

COL Scott Thein  
and  
CSM Michael Williams



Artillery Punch is prepared by COL Thein for the St. Barbara's Day celebration.





## 82D AVIATION BRIGADE

# Task Force Pegasus



### **Colonel Perry Wiggins** **Commanding Officer, 82D AVN BDE**

From all the Members of Task Force Pegasus I wish to extend a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am sure a number of you are returning and recovering from your Christmas Holiday. The members of Task Force Pegasus are doing much of the same. Thanks in large part to the efforts of those on the home front we were able to celebrate Christmas here in Iraq. The packages, decorations and holiday messages you sent helped bring the Christmas Spirit to Central Iraq. We even had a visit from Ole Saint Nick himself. I must admit he looked a lot like Wolfpack 06. The dining facility prepared an impressive meal complete with ham, turkey, roast and Cornish hens. We will be sending the photographic evidence shortly.

There was also much excitement this month brought about by the capture of Saddam Hussein. Although I am inclined to agree with reporters that this event was a great Christmas present I also realize that his capture does not mean an end to the war. The soldiers of Task Force Pegasus continue to make America proud by taking the fight to the enemy. This month we logged our 7000th hour flown in support of this deployment. Whether flying at the tip of the spear in support of ground commanders, carrying Distinguished Visitors (DVs) throughout sector or conducting UH-60 phases in 20 days or less I understand the team effort involved with flying and maintaining this type of operational tempo. I am proud of the teamwork exhibited by each and every member of the team.

The life support initiatives here at FOB Ridgway con-





tinue to materialize. The new MWR tent provides connectivity for task force soldiers through e-mail and phone. The tent houses 20 plus computer systems connected to the Internet and 12 phones with long distance service. The "Cyber Café" as it has been affectionately named is one of the most popular sights on FOB Ridgway. In addition to the "Cyber Café" we have added a new weight room and video/television tent. The weigh room is packed with the latest Nautilus equipment. The video/television

tent houses several stations with Sony Playstation II, Game Gear and Xbox systems. The television has a 50-inch screen and we are hoping to have it operational in time for the Bowl Games.

As we round the corner on the fourth month of deployment it is important for each of us to not lose sight of the fact that we have a few more months ahead of us. Our focus here remains on the mission at hand. We appreciate all that you have done to sup-

port the members of Task Force Pegasus.

Remember to keep those prayers, letters and packages coming our way.

Your efforts continue to serve as a combat multiplier for the task force. Once again I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pegasus 06







# Division Support Command Task Force Provider



## Colonel Glen Takemoto

Commanding Officer, DISCOM

To our DISCOM Family,

The 21st Chemical Company has been doing great work assisting in the elimination of over 50,000 short tons of enemy ammunition. This action is a significant part of providing a more safe and secure environment here in Iraq.

The troopers of HHC DISCOM have been extremely busy sustaining combat operations, supporting quality of life initiatives and enhancing force protection measures for Task Force All-American. HHC DISCOM also sponsored the FOB Ridgway 10K Jingle Bell Jog to celebrate Christmas, we had over 200 participants, with T-shirts provided by USAEUR G1 and prizes provided by AAFES.

The 782d MSB has been working non-stop in putting armor on the Task Force's vehicles to make them better protected from enemy attack



and crossing over the 250,000-mile mark on safely transporting supplies across the Task Force. The troopers compete in the Commander's Cup Tournament every weekend in sports ranging from football to basketball to horseshoes to dominoes, but we hear the most popular (entertaining) are the Commanders vs. 1SGs events. They also had the honor of having both LTG Sanchez, CJTF-7 Commander, and MG Swannack, our CG, participate in their Christmas Eve reception and celebration. The troopers got to hear words of praise from both

Commanders and then got a chance to meet them personally and take photos with them.

Our 407th FSB Griffins celebrated a joint Thanksgiving/Ramadan Feast with the orphans of Jebachy, a nearby village that the 407th sponsors.







Afterwards, soldiers donated soccer balls, dolls, crayons, and coloring books to the orphans. For

As always, our personal thank you to all the Family Readiness Group volunteers, family, and friends for all your love, caring, and hard work supporting the DISCOM family. It makes being in this challenging environment easier to know we have your support with us.

Wishing you a Happy New Year.  
All the way, Airborne!

COL GLENN H. TAKEMOTO  
Commanding  
and  
CSM KENNETH V. TAYLOR  
Command Sergeant Major







## 82D Signal Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Crawford  
Commanding Officer



Happy New Year to the All American Signal Battalion Family, past and present. I sincerely hope and trust that this edition of the Family Readiness Group Newsletter finds you all in the very best of health and spirits. The Signal Battalions watchwords for 2004 will be "selfless service and sacrifice"; continued service to this Great Nation and the sacrifices of many supporting our efforts in prosecuting this Global War on Terrorism. I'd like to personally thank you all for your genuine concern for our well-being and for your contributions to the overall efforts of this Battalion.

Quality of life for those troopers deployed here in Iraq continues to improve each day with the continuous upgrades in living conditions, phone banks, internet capabilities, calling cards and access to MWR facilities. The list of those to thank for the current state of our quality of life are many but just know that every effort is being



made by our leadership to truly make this a "home away from home".

Our primary mission of conducting and supporting combat operations here in Iraq are well documented but I'd like to take the opportunity to thank those involved and shed some light on another initiative, which is starting to take shape, across the Division. The adopt a school program, dubbed Operation Romper Room, has been well received and involves providing troopers and much needed supplies to the Abdul Rachman Nassar Secondary School, located in the town of Habbaniyah, Iraq. Our hope is that the efforts of our troopers will help create an environment that is conducive to learning in a professional setting where they can be focused on their bright futures and not be reminded of their oppressed past. Again many thanks to those involved in yet another demonstration of our "good faith" towards winning the "hearts and minds" of the Iraqi people.



Our Family Readiness group support has continued to be a combat multiplier, as we go about the business of doing our Nations work. There are many who have literally adopted deployed troopers and you are to be commended for your unyielding support. The constant inquiries, cards and letters have truly been uplifting. For your efforts you are owed a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid but just know that your patriotism and overall concern has not gone unnoticed. Your strength during some very difficult times over the last several months has truly been an inspiration to my



remember those that are less fortunate, have lost loved ones or have been injured in this Global War against Terrorism. Continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.



troopers and for that I thank you. Congratulations are definitely in order for several recent births, anniversaries, reenlistments, selections and promotions that have occurred across the Battalion over the last month. As we enter 2004, in your own way, please take time out to

To the Parents of our deployed troopers and members of the alumni, thank you very much for the words of encouragement and your continued interest and steadfast support. Our troopers are definitely aware of the battalion's storied history and "from whence we've come". Your continued inquiries are definitely welcomed and we look forward to seeing you all this year at Fort Bragg during All American Week. Again, Happy New Year, God Bless you all and God Bless this Great Nation that we have the pleasure of serving.

Airborne, All the Way.

LTC Bruce T. Crawford  
Commander

CSM Cecil W. Hammonds  
Command Sergeant Major







# 307th Engineer Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Wehr  
Commanding Officer



As we close out 2003, we can all agree it's been year like no other for our battalion. We have truly been through a series of historic events for our battalion, the division, and the Nation. We saw the division close its chapter for now in Afghanistan, ending deployments there for A and C companies. We saw HHC, 618th and B Company deploy to Iraq, some twice in the same year. We saw the births of children while their fathers were deployed, doing our nation's work in foreign lands. Lastly, but certainly significantly, we saw families and friends of the battalion, supporting their soldiers, every day, with letters, emails, packages, thoughts, and prayers. It is difficult to explain the awesome effect your support has on our soldiers. Please keep the home fires burning, as all soldiers are very appreciative of all your efforts. As the CSM and I travel throughout the division area, we remain in awe of the inspirational acts of bravery, compassion, caring, and dedication your soldiers display on a daily basis, and directly attribute their upbeat attitude and success to the support you provide.

The New Year promises similar challenges, as 70% of our battalion remains deployed here in Iraq. In addition, those soldiers rotating back to Fort Bragg continue to fulfill an incredibly important role, providing a ready force as America's Guard of Honor, prepared to deploy on a moment's notice as a part of the Division Ready Brigade.

Please enjoy what the company commanders have prepared for their updates. They carry the legacy of the battalion into the year 2004. From the battalion command team, we wish you health, happiness, and goodwill to you and your families.

## HHC, 307th EN BN

November was an exciting month for HHC, 307th Engineer Battalion. We celebrated Thanksgiving at both Champion Base and at FOB Ridgway with an outstanding Thanksgiving Day feast provided to us by each Chow Hall. The meal consisted of turkey, ham, chicken, dressing, potatoes, corn, green beans, rolls, and pumpkin pie. We enjoyed an equally delicious meal on Christmas Day. The task organization for HHC has changed a little since last month. Now, part of A&B has joined the DREAR team at FOB Ridgway. The soldiers have been busy with decorating their living and working areas with Christmas decorations sent to us by our family and friends. We now have a



### HHC Troopers at FOB Ridgway

Christmas tree complete with lights and decorations set up in the Sapper Village courtyard along with an inflatable Frosty that SPC Sprague's family sent to him.

The soldiers of HHC, 307th Engineer Battalion have been busy. A&B platoon is hard at work doing force protection and quality of life construction missions. The Maintenance platoon is still spread out between DMAIN, DREAR, B Company and C Company. They are ensuring that the 307th Engineer Battalion's equipment stays mission ready over the entire 82d Airborne Division area of responsibility. The Commo section is busy supporting all computer and communication needs of both the DMAIN and DREAR headquarters. The S1 shop is taking care of all the personnel actions for the five engineer battalions that fall under the 82d Airborne Division. The S2 and S3 shops are hard at work at DMAIN running the 307th Engineer Battalion TOC that manages and tracks all the engineer assets for the 82d Airborne Division. The S4 section has



### HHC enjoying time in the courtyard.

been busy procuring the wood, sandbags, cement barriers and HESCO Bastions that the 307th has been using to increase our force protection posture at all of our base camps. We continue improving our own living areas at DMAIN and at DREAR also. DREAR now has our very own lighted and heated hot water shower that A Co, 27th Engineers built for all HHC, 618th and A/27th soldiers to use in Sapper Village.

#### **A Co, 27th EN BN**



**A/27 Engineers after a job well done!**

Alpha Company has been staying busy here in Iraq. The Vertical Platoon has been hard at work placing finishing touches on the new shower point, building their new living quarters, improving roofs in Sapper Village with tin, winterizing guard towers with windows, and building Sapper Village's MWR room. First Platoon has been engaged in operations, which will improve the force protection and provide security for other units in our area. Second Platoon has been at work on their new living quarters, and receiving training on new equipment that will help ensure that soldiers can drive down Iraqi roads safely. Maintenance and Headquarters have been striving to ensure that the company and their vehicles run smoothly.

With the opening of the new chow hall and PX life here is constantly improving. Right now work is being done to



**Vertical Platoon getting after it!**

tile the floor and walls of our shower point. Both Vertical and Second Platoon will be finishing up and moving into their new living quarters. Each week life here is getting better with noticeable improvements that are being completed, many of which are being done by soldiers of Alpha Company, 27th Engineer Battalion.

#### **B Co, 307th EN BN**



**SPC Centrila receives a battalion coin.**

First and foremost I'd like to say belated Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. I can tell you that the most popular New Years resolution I've heard is to leave Baghdad and return to Bragg. I am happy to say that the Brigade has a redeployment order as of last week and the train is beginning to roll as far as forward planning to leave Baghdad later next month and get us home in early to mid February.

The company as always remains busy. In early October through mid November all squads rotated to Butler Range (1st Armored Division's range located about 30 km east of Baghdad). Each squad trained with the infantry company they support on breaching drills and movement techniques. They also schooled the infantry on basic demolition training, and ran squads through a MOUT shoot house (the shoot house was constructed by SGT Talbott's team (since then that team has been put in for awards).

Another major focus for the Brigade in October and through November was the move of 3-325 and the Brigade Headquarters to Camp Falcon. This is a good thing. The Camp has internet cafes, a large AAFES, a soon to be open restaurant, barber shops, local vendors, a first class dining facility, a big gym complete with a juice bar, more places to run, and very nice barracks.

1st Platoon's focus (PLT Headquarters and SSG Smith's squad) has been school reconstruction. Their efforts have found more than \$1 million dollars to help in the reconstruction of over 100 schools. SSG Carroll's and SGT(P)





**SPC Mardin and Cox and SGT Reyes and Haines get promoted.**

Jones' squads have maintained running missions in support of the infantry companies to root out terrorist cells and other enemy forces operating in their sector. 2nd Platoon in addition to running missions with the infantry battalion has also hardened all the police stations, banks and key governmental buildings to further protect the buildings from terrorists. 2d PLT still lives about 10 km to the east of the Brigade TOC but we will see them move to Falcon towards the end of this month in preparation for redeployment. 3rd Platoon moved into Camp Falcon, so the entire platoon is now together. Over the last month, they have been busy destroying enemy caches and also hardening key facilities in the battalion sector.

As we move into the later part of this month the company will begin preparing for the redeployment; including packing things up, and eventually moving from Iraq to Kuwait. Once in Kuwait, we will clean our vehicles, go through some classes, load our equipment on ships, and then head for home. I cannot release the dates of the deployment but I do expect in the next few weeks, the Brigade will put the official date out to the FRG. Once back we will execute a two week, half day schedule "block leave prep". Following this we will execute a much deserved four-week block leave.

**C Co, 307th EN BN**

The Warriors of Charlie Company continually display their skills as top-notch engineer executors. This month the Warriors exhibited extreme flexibility in achieving positive results. Each platoon participated in several key combat operations. The operations involved detaining several hostile individuals known to cause harm to U.S. and coalition forces, confiscating an assortment of enemy munitions and explosives, and assisting local townships with establishing security forces. Imbedded with those operations, the Light Equipment platoon (3/618) contributed to the overall effort through their effective and efficient roadside clearance and highway interchange clearance. This engineering support

helped to reduce the enemy's chance to attack coalition forces via improvised explosive devices. Aside from the combat operations, the Warriors continue to possess the wherewithal for professional growth. We will send four soldiers to the E-6 promotion board and five soldiers to the E-5 promotion board. In addition, we've received allocations to afford several soldiers the opportunity to earn



more promotion points and to get them qualified in an additional soldier skill. As a soldier's combat motivation and combat stress reliever, several of your soldiers were selected to participate in the Fighter Management Pass Program and other in-country R&R trips. This along with support from friends, spouses, and family continue to be quite effective in maintaining our soldier's combat focus. To perpetuate this seasonal sentiment, our company Executive Officer, 1LT Korn made special arrangements to adorn our company area with it's own Christmas tree.



**618th EN CO, 307th EN BN**

Greetings again from Iraq! I am proud to say that your paratroopers continue to excel in every given mission. We have watched the damaged runway slowly transform into a functioning airfield due to the hard work and diligence of all the troopers in the Nasty.

Since the last newsletter, we have also promoted several of your family members. SGT Adam Burris from 2nd PLT, SGT Ajaya Martin from Headquarters Section, SGT Laco



### **2nd Platoon and Headquarters, 618th LE Co.**

Corder from Maintenance, SPC Juan Medina, SPC Kevin Clark, and PFC James Curtis from 2nd PLT have all been promoted. We also had SPC Bradley Favinger from Headquarters and SPC Samuel Schumacher from 2nd PLT pass the E-5 board.

First Sergeant Rivera and I have also been able visit every camp where the Nasty has soldiers. We made it to FOB St. Mere to see LT Solan, SSG Mix, and the members of 3rd PLT. They have managed to turn an old motor pool building into a comfortable work and living area. They continue to travel the roads clearing them of explosive devices and have recently begun construction of a weapons range. We then traveled to FOB Falcon to see SGT Atkinson, SGT Romero, and the few other troopers



### **A plane lands on our runway!**

from 2nd PLT that have been here since the first OIF deployment. They have lived in some rough places, but currently have the best quality of life since the beginning of their deployment. They continue to construct protective devices (barriers, berms, and fighting positions) for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. They are also rotating personnel through some well-deserved leave.

As we are in the holiday season, we continue to receive numerous packages and cards from family members, friends, and other supportive Americans who just wanted to say thanks to the soldiers for their service. We appreci-

ate everything you do to remind us what we have to come home to. Have an enjoyable holiday season. All the way!

### **A Co, 307th EN BN**

Since our return from Afghanistan in September, the focus has been on refitting, re-integrating, and getting ready for the next mission which is a bit sooner than expected. In the legacy of patriotic paratroopers, our Nation has called upon us again, and we will be ready. We will support the 1st Brigade Combat Team deploying to Iraq for approximately 120 days to help with the transition of forces.

To get ready, we've had three soldiers from Team Rock go to BNCOC and have two more going in January. We've also had six jumpmaster graduates and a PRC graduate. Our collective training has been focused on the basics. We've used two large package weeks to refresh and hone our skills on combined arms airfield clearance and repair. Other training has included weapons and demo ranges, earth moving with our equipment, and of course, a lot of jumping. Future training will include sending sappers to Fort Leonard Wood for a two-week train-up on the most current techniques in mitigating the danger from explosive devices. We have also used this time to get caught up on family time and recreation. Organized unit events have included a Halloween party and a recent Christmas party complete with horse rides and a Santa visit. CPT John Checco passed the guidon to CPT Todd Bzdafka. John and Erika have been true heroes through challenging times. We welcome Todd and Kristi & Jacob as the new command family. The New Year will be sure to keep pace with this one and the Rock Soldiers are up for the challenge.

### **Rear Detachment, 307th EN BN**

The mission of the rear detachment has been focused on support. We have been responsible for supporting Alpha Company's return and refit and at the same time providing the battalion forward with trained replacements and new equipment. The rear detachment continues to receive, supply, and train soldiers to move to the forward area of operations. Pre-deployment training consists of weapons qualification with new equipment, area briefs, and of course mine and explosives training. While focusing our efforts east, we are still able to continue to send people to schools and improve our soldier skills. The rear detachment has sent two NCOs to BNCOC and three leaders to Jumpmaster school. In the new year, the rear detachment will tackle the logistical tasks involved in receiving the rest of the soldiers of the battalion back into operations here at Fort Bragg and immediately getting everyone ready for the next mission, whatever it may be.





## 82D Soldier Support Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Ryan  
Commanding Officer



Dear family and friends of the All American Soldier Support Battalion,

Operation Bases. When they were not on the move, their instruments were at the ready in dining facilities, or on makeshift stages or gravel fields to the cheers and enjoyment of all. Their talent as performers was shadowed only by their commitment as paratroopers. Mission Accomplished - Well Done.



Thanks in large measure to the generous and gracious contributions of family, friends, churches and schools, SSB paratroopers at each camp woke up to presents under the tree and stockings stuffed with personal comfort items and homemade holiday treats. With all of this support, the troopers did a phenomenal job of keeping the holiday spirit alive in the middle of the desert - the only thing missing was you.

We began our month with songs from the heart, literally, as the SSB's own All American Band joined the fray. They executed out load operations from Ft. Bragg and participated in tactical convoys and airlifts in theater in order to entertain thousands of paratroopers across each of the Division's major Forward

of competing interests across the landscape, many of which conflict with our objective of creating a safe, secure and self-reliant Iraq. Every soldier is mindful that there is still







over 1500 students a varying times of the day. During the visit we commented to the Head Mistress that in spite of the limited resources, the community's commitment to education was impressive. She replied without hesitation, "Of course it's a priority. Although, my generation missed its opportunity, this is the first generation of free Iraqi's in

much work to be done and each day they rise to the new challenges posed by a adaptive enemy.

The SSB in concert with several smaller units at FOB



30 years." In this brief exchange, the optimism and pride that only exists where freedom reigns was readily apparent in her eyes and in her voice. Your loved ones from the 82d SSB and 316th Postal Company soldier are contributing daily towards the safety of our nation and to the opportunities for others that only freedom can afford.

Thanks again for all of your love and support. We do what we do because of you, and we couldn't do it without you.

All the Way - Airborne!

LTC Tim Ryan  
CSM Marion White

Ridgway has adopted a school in a nearby village. Housed in a small building, without electricity, a telephone, or basic textbooks and supplies, the school educates







## 313th Military Intelligence Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Guarino  
Commanding Officer



Families of the 313th Military Intelligence Battalion,

I would like to wish you all a happy New Year and hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. We had as good a Christmas as could be



expected while separated from our families in Iraq. Everyone had a great Christmas dinner and we took some down time where possible. All of the troopers really appreciated the great effort by the Company FRGs and several other groups from the states that sent us stuff. The troopers were equally impressed by the handful of celebrities who sacrificed the holiday season to support to the Paratroopers of the 82nd. The most notable was Craig Morgan who is a former 82nd Airborne Division Paratrooper (less notable, but now a famous country singer). The USO also brought over the WWF wrestler Bradshaw, and country singers Darryl Worley and Jolie Edwards. December was a very busy month for us and many things are beginning to change. The weather is cold at night and bearable in the day. With the days starting to get longer, we expect the temperature to start going higher. I'm sure you all shared our great sense of encouragement with the capture of Saddam Hussein. This was a huge accomplishment and we will continue our mission and look into the future with

great optimism for future successes.

Bravo Company continues its fantastic support to the Falcons in Baghdad. While they continue in their efforts to deal with terrorists and former ba'athists, over the past month they have also supported operations that are more traditionally taken on by the police. They have supported several operations to disrupt the illegal fuel trade which is causing the Iraqi people to pay outrageous prices for gas and have helped deal with other parts of the criminal element in their area. The good news is that they are beginning to prepare for redeployment and are still on track to be home by mid February. I hope you will see them soon. Likewise, Charlie Company continues its great support to the Panthers. Over the last month they supported a few large-scale operations targeting evildoers that have been participating in hostile acts against us.

Delta Company continues its support in the fight by taking both the ACE and Human Intelligence operations to the next level. The ACE has found its second gear and is conducting some fantastic analysis to help isolate and find the evildoers. HUMINT operations continue to be the centerpiece of our collection effort and this entire group of troopers impresses me every day. No one is working hard and getting better results.





### **Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle sets Army Safety Record!**

Echo Company continues to support the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Operations are going extremely well for our LRS troopers. They just returned from a very successful, weeklong set of missions out in the western deser. However, I am starting to get concerned that they will trade in their Berets for Stetsons. I expect the remainder of the Detachment to deploy in the next few weeks. This will be the first time that the Detachment has operated as a whole since October 2002.

HSC is busily conducting maintenance on the battalion's equipment. The battalion has put a lot of miles on its trucks and a lot of hours on its generators,

communications gear, and intelligence collection systems. The EMS, motor pool, and communication repair crew have been working hard conducting technical inspections (TI) and services on all this equipment. The UAV platoon continues to fly numerous missions in support of the Task Force-82 team. Our UAV crew now holds the Army safety record for the most flight hours without any incident (i.e. crash) and we hope to extend that record.

Everyone continues to do an outstanding job here. Despite working long days, standing guard on cold rainy nights, and getting little time off, everyone has maintained a positive attitude and remains dedicated to the mission at hand. I am extremely proud of everyone's hard work and selfless service. It is a

privilege to be on a team with such talented and dedicated troopers. Thanks for all of your support and encouragement from back home.

All the way,  
LTC Guarino







## 3-4 Air Defense Artillery Regiment (Airborne)

LTC King  
Commanding Officer



Happy New Year. I pray that this note finds each of you enjoying the New-Year and in the best of health. Here in Iraq we continue to

us to stand on-point in a foreign land. As I address the troops I often tell them how we will all be better Troopers, Husbands, Wives, Sons, and Daughters having served here in Iraq.



The month of December was significant as Saddam Hussein was captured and for many Iraqis their hopes and dreams for freedom became visible. For troopers it is one less dictator that we will not have to hunt down, but by no means is our mission in Iraq over. We continue to conduct operations to destroy terrorists, former regime elements and individuals that do not want a peaceful Iraq. The missions we have are going well and know that we are doing everything possible to take care of each other while accomplishing this important mission.

perform our missions to assist in the security and the stabilization of Iraq while securing forces on Forward Operating Bases and supporting patrols, static site security and route security. Our troopers continue to accomplish all assigned missions and remain at the tip of the spear in all operations in Iraq. You should be very proud of your loved ones as their service inspires me daily.

The New Year brings with it many new resolutions that we spend an inordinate amount of energy thinking of how we will make this year better. Hopefully this year all of our resolutions will include the integration of families and a commitment to a stronger family. As we enter our 4th month of deployment your cards, letters and emails has sustained all of us and it strengthens

In addition to stabilizing and securing Iraq the Skystrikers adopted a village





outside of our forward operating base. Our weekly visits give our troopers a first hand look at the impact they are having on the Iraqi people. We are providing fuel, water, school supplies and assisting in the construction of an elementary school. Our weekly village visits is becoming a highlight for the entire battalion. We have been

overwhelmed with items to provide the children from family readiness groups, family and friends. Thank you very much and the Shiek Ishmael Mahamoud wanted me to thank you on behalf of the Al Kabani village. Your gratitude is having a huge impact in the lives of this small village in Iraq.



Thanks for all that you are doing back home keep our troops in your prayers and we all look forward to returning home.

God Speed,  
LTC Tomi King







**HHC**  
**82D Airborne Division**  
**Commander: CPT Trehan**

Happy holidays families and friends of the Troopers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 82D Airborne Division.

Although we are apart during this holiday season know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. All of your Troopers continue to perform magnificently in our role to rebuild Iraq.

Headquarters' focus for the past month remained the command and control of the Division but each sec-



tion makes a unique and vital contribution to the team effort. Of note this month, the Company safely





at Champion Main. Within their weight class, CPL Willie Dunlap (LSA) placed 1st, PFC Darryl Shuler (541st Terrain Detachment) placed 1st, PFC Christopher Robertson (LSA) placed 1st and SPC Daniel Staley (LSA) placed 2nd.

Every month invariably a Headquarters Trooper is selected for promotion. December was no exception. MAJ Frank Christopher will be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and SSG Greene will be promoted to Sergeant First Class.

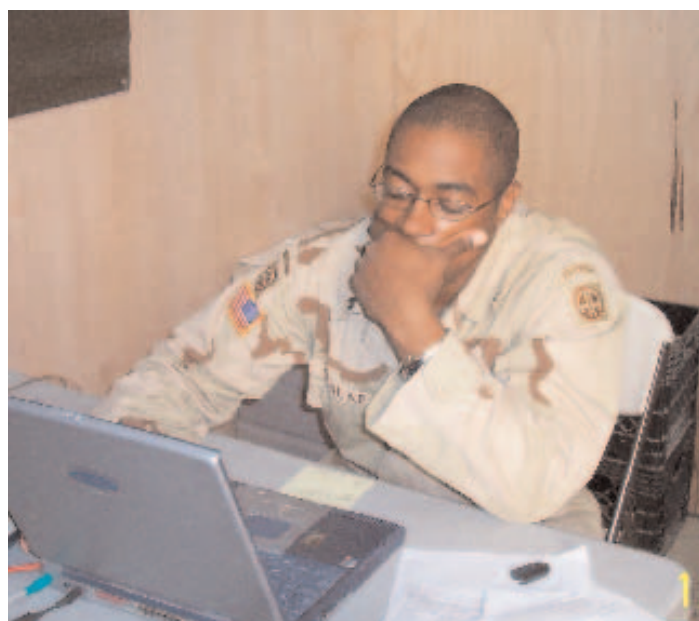
and successfully completed over twenty convoys for the transport of soldiers and supplies in the Division's area of operations. Several of the Army's leaders visited our Troopers during the holidays. Many Troopers from Headquarters Company assisted with planning and execution of their visits by preparing information briefs, special meals, and providing extra security. The Troopers from the mess section helped make the Christmas Meal a special one by making special foods and decorating the dining facility.

To celebrate the holidays a boxing smoker was held

Private Ryan Willson (SJA) represented Headquarters Company at the Division Support Command Soldier of the Month Board and won first place.

The following Troopers celebrated their birthdays while contributing to the Global War on Terrorism: SGT Ambrose Brown (DTO), SSG Chad Haver (G3), SGT Jamel Kirklin (G4), MAJ John Kopp (G4), SGT Karen Nucci (G2), MAJ Marcel Schneider (G3) and SGT Terrance Watkins.

The Troopers from Headquarters Company wish all of you a Happy Holidays and New Year!







**82D Military Police  
Company (Airborne)  
Commander: CPT Brown**

Happy Holidays and a warm hello from the 82d MP CO!

Another month has elapsed since the company departed from Fort Bragg in September. It is never easy for the deployed soldiers this time of year. Every paratrooper in the unit continues to carry on



the mission as professionally as they did day one in country. It is remarkable to see how motivated the troopers continue to be, even during this holiday season. Although we would love to be with our families for the holidays, we realize the importance of the mission and how it must take precedence at the current time in our nation's history.

4th Platoon continues to provide outstanding military police support to the division main. They continue to conduct convoy escort throughout Iraq. To date, 4th platoon has logged more driving miles than any other platoon in the company or on Champion Main for that matter. The security given to the DMAIN and the PSD has been unprecedented. Positive comments continue to flow through the command on the performance of these soldiers. 4th platoon also recently

promoted SPC James Mosley to the rank of CPL. Assigned as a team leader in 4th Platoon, CPL Mosley continues to provide outstanding leadership, ensuring mission accomplishment while caring for his troopers.

3rd Platoon still supports 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and are doing a great job. Not only are they logging many miles but they are assisting in the training Iraqi police in their area of operation.

2nd Platoon supports 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

After nearly a year in country, 2nd platoon still performs professionally everyday. Like the other platoons, 2nd platoon logs hundreds of miles on their vehicles every week. They too, assist in security missions throughout

Iraq. 2nd platoon is looking forward to returning home soon.







Not to forget the unsung heroes of the company, headquarters platoon continues to provide outstanding support to the company. SGT Jasinski keeps our vehicle going despite working all hours of the day. Like all the troopers in the HQ platoon, SGT "J" continues to set the standard in motivation and dedication.

Throughout Iraq, the entire company



enjoy Christmas in their own way. 4th platoon and headquarters had an early morning gift exchange in the company TOC and later celebrated Christmas together by eating a won-

derful Christmas feast. 3rd platoon troopers were left small presents outside their door. They too, were able to all enjoy their Christmas meal together. 2nd platoon also celebrated Christmas with a gift exchange and a meal together. Although everyone would rather be with family, morale continues to be high and the troopers are definitely taking care of each other.

On a final note, the unit has changed command. CPT Brown relinquished his command on 19 Dec 03 to CPT Hill. Once again, the troopers of the company set the standard by conducting an absolutely wonderful change of command ceremony.



The paratroopers of the 82d Military Police Company would again like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season.

ALL THE WAY! AIRBORNE!  
CPT Hill



# PARATROOPERS IN ACTION!



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN IRAQ!

